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Letter dated 27 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the final communiqué of the thirteenth meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea, held in Conakry on 15 and 16 May 2010 (see annex).

The Government of Guinea would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council in connection with the item entitled "Peace consolidation in West Africa".

(*Signed*) Alpha Ibrahima **Sow**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 27 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Thirteenth meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea

Conakry, 15 and 16 May 2010

Final communiqué

1. The thirteenth meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea (the Group)[1] was held in Conakry on 15 and 16 May 2010.

2. The Group held successive discussions with the Transitional Prime Minister, the Vice-Chairpersons of the National Transitional Council, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Political Affairs and the representative of the Independent National Electoral Commission, and also with the spokespersons of Forces vives, Alliance Nationale pour le Renouveau and the Bloc of Patriotic Forces. The Group considered the report of the joint ECOWAS-African Union-United Nations mission of experts on security sector reform.

3. The Group was received by Brigadier General Sékouba Konaté, President of the Transition and Interim Head of State, who reiterated his determination to fully respect the pledge made to the people of Guinea and the international community to hold presidential elections on 27 June 2010. The Group congratulated him in that regard and encouraged him to continue his efforts.

4. The Group welcomed the progress made in the transitional process. In that regard, the Group took note of the Decree of 6 May 2010 setting the date for the presidential election and the Decree of 7 May 2010 on the promulgation of the revised Constitution. It also encouraged the Guinean authorities to promulgate the revised Electoral Code as soon as possible and to bring the electoral timetable into line with the legal texts. It paid tribute to the commitment, determination and spirit of compromise that had prevailed among all stakeholders, as well as the unity of purpose and spirit of cooperation demonstrated by the members of the Group, which had helped to achieve those significant results.

5. The Group welcomed the commitment shown by all stakeholders and the entire political class to respect the date of the presidential election and to abide by Point 8 of the Ouagadougou Joint Declaration, in accordance with which the Interim Head of State, the members of the National Council for Democracy and Development (CNDD), the Prime Minister, the members of the Transitional

[1] In addition to the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the following organizations and countries attended the meeting: the United Nations, the European Union, the Mano River Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund; the permanent members of the Security Council, namely the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, the Russian Federation and China; a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, namely Nigeria (which holds the chairmanship of ECOWAS); Malawi (which holds the chairmanship of the African Union); Germany, Spain, Japan and Canada; Burkina Faso (the Mediator in the Guinea crisis); and Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Senegal (as guests).

Government, the President and members of the National Transitional Council, as well as members of the defence and security forces in active service, would not be candidates in the presidential election.

6. Regarding the preparations for the elections, the Group welcomed the significant progress made in finalizing the voter registry and the emerging consensus around it, and also welcomed the start of the registration of candidates for the presidential election. It took note of the substantial financial assistance from Guinea's partners, who had reiterated their promise to support the electoral process. In the same vein, the Group commended the Government for releasing part of the resources necessary for the electoral process and encouraged it to release the remainder.

7. The Group expressed its gratitude to the partners who had provided their technical assistance to the electoral process and invited them to continue to do so and to increase their support until the holding of the legislative elections.

8. The Group urged the Guinean authorities to adopt relevant legislation on security arrangements for the electoral process as soon as possible and to identify specific related requirements so that partners could contribute towards them. Similarly, the Group invited partners to finalize their plans for the deployment of electoral observers and reiterated its readiness to support the deployment of an ECOWAS civil-security observer mission, if so requested by the authorities.

9. On the eve of the launch of the electoral campaign, the Group had urgently appealed to the Guinean people, particularly the leaders and members of all political movements, to show moderation and restraint, and to help promote the conduct of a successful campaign and the holding of peaceful elections. In that regard, the Group urged the political forces and all other stakeholders in the electoral process to place national unity, cohesion and peace above any partisan considerations and to refrain from any acts liable to endanger the transition.

10. The Group urged the Independent National Electoral Commission and the other transitional institutions, as well as the political forces and the media, to raise awareness about democratic values among the population, including political actors, activists and supporters, to familiarize them with the voting process and to induce them to uphold democratic rules, which implied tolerance, a non-predetermined outcome and acceptance of the verdict of the vote. It also encouraged the stakeholders in the transition to ensure enhanced communication and greater transparency in the electoral progress, particularly for the benefit of the population. The Group also urged the media to act in a professional manner and to contribute to the conduct of a peaceful electoral campaign.

11. The Group welcomed the willingness of His Excellency Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso and Mediator, to continue to support the transition process in Guinea and encouraged him to pursue his efforts aimed at reinforcing constructive and inclusive dialogue among the stakeholders. The Group invited the political parties to intensify and broaden their consultative efforts with a view to the swift conclusion of a comprehensive political agreement, including a code of conduct and a monitoring mechanism.

12. The Group underlined the importance of justice, reconciliation and the fight against impunity as prerequisites for maintaining social cohesion in the transition process. In that regard, it commended the actions taken by the National Transitional

Council and welcomed the opening of an office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

13. The Group took note of the final report of the joint ECOWAS-African Union-United Nations group of experts on reform of the defence and security sector. The Group requested the Government of Guinea to take the necessary steps to facilitate the continued implementation of the security sector reform programme. It called on ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations, in consultation with the Government of Guinea and other interested partners, to develop the modalities for the implementation of its recommendations, including the necessary financial, technical and material support.

14. The Group commended the initiatives adopted by the transitional institutions, which had led to the gradual resumption of cooperation with the international community, particularly the European Union and bilateral partners. It encouraged those institutions to discharge the duties assigned to them as soon as possible in order to invigorate cooperation with partners, complete the transition process and promote economic recovery in Guinea.

15. The Group decided to hold its next meeting in Conakry on a date to be determined following consultations by the Co-Chairs.